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## Embassy's Own Antenna Caused Phone Problems

MOSCOW (AP) — American technicians have quietly removed an antenna from the roof of the U.S. Embassy, 17 months after discovering it was sending high-frequency radio signals into a telephone on the American ambassador's desk.

The radio signals were discovered during a radiation monitoring sweep prompted by Soviet bombardment of the Embassy with microwaves, sources said.

However, State Department officials waited 17 months before removing the loop-shaped antenna, reportedly because they did not want the Soviets to use it as an excuse to blame the microwave bombardment on U.S. equipment.

U.S. officials have repeatedly denied American electronic equipment was responsible for the microwave levels.

"When we did realize this was happening — and we didn't until after the microwave story broke — we were afraid that the Soviets would more or less use it against us as a political move, saying we were inducing these signals onto ourselves," one U.S. source said.

Instead of moving the antenna immediately, State Department officials ordered special filters installed on the affected telephone lines last winter to block out the high-frequency signals.

The antenna was removed from the roof of the Embassy's south wing

during recent rebuilding work to repair damages in the upper floors of the 10-story structure caused by a fire in late August.

The antenna had been located less than 20 feet from the ambassador's office on the ninth floor. Sources said the proximity reproduced the radio signals through the telephone lines even though there was no physical connection.

The sources said former Ambassador Walter J. Stoessel Jr. was furious when told in May 1976 that the high-frequency signals were coming through his telephone. He ordered the radio transmitter shut down and used only in emergencies.

It could not be determined whether he could hear the interference.

The antenna had been used to transmit Embassy message traffic when the Embassy's main communications channels were down or overloaded.

Stoessel left Moscow in September 1976 to become U.S. ambassador to West Germany and was replaced by Malcolm Toom.

Sources said the antenna was linked to a 1,000-watt transmitter broadcasting in the frequency range from 3 to 30 megahertz.

The Soviet microwave beams aimed at the Embassy are reported to be a mixture of much higher frequencies ranging from about 1,900 to 9,500 megahertz.